



### Did you know?

The Army, Navy and Marines met their congressionally mandated end strength for Fiscal Year '99, while the Air Force ended it 2.8 percent understrength

# Airlift DISPATCH

Vol. 38, No. 40

Friday, October 8, 1999

Charleston AFB, SC

### Charleston facts

**Oct. 4, 1999** -- A Charleston-based C-17 helped deploy Thai troops to Australia in support of the operation in East Timor.



## WR - ALC to inspect C-17s, determine maintenance schedule

by 2nd Lt. Jeff Roberts

Warner Robins ALC PA

The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center signed a one-year direct sales agreement Monday with Boeing Aircraft Company to perform inspections on C-17 Globemaster III cargo planes.

The agreement calls for the ALC to perform analytical condition inspections on a selected number of C-17s during the contract period. The planes will undergo a 45-day inspection that will look for hidden wear and tear and will predict future maintenance actions on the Air Force's newest outsized cargo aircraft.

The results of the inspection will be sent to Boeing, which will use the information to build a maintenance schedule to keep the C-17 flying smoothly, efficiently and safely.

"This Air Logistics Center is a vital resource for the Department of Defense and the Air Force's global mobility. No doubt, the strong legacy of the Robins ALC in airlifter maintenance played a key role in our selection for this contract. We look forward to the arrival of the first C-17 in April 2000 and we'll be ready for this next generation airlifter," said Deryl Israel, deputy director of the C-141 System Program Office.

Robins was chosen for many reasons, said Roger A. Hobbs, project manager for the C-17 Project Office.

"Of the three (Air Force Materiel Command) depots, Robins is the home of the airlift maintenance community and has the heavy aircraft experience suited for the C-17," said Hobbs.

The work load will not mean an increase in the work force at Robins, but will allow workers from the C-141 System Program Office to crosstrain into the C-17



Staff Sgt. Richard Kaminsky

**Warner Robins ALC recently signed a one-year direct sales agreement with Boeing Aircraft Company, agreeing to perform inspections on C-17 Globemasters. The results of the 45-day inspections will be sent to Boeing, which will use the information to build a maintenance schedule to keep the C-17 flying smoothly, efficiently and safely.**

division.

The C-141, which is being phased out of the Air Force inventory, may have also given Robins an edge in the C-17 contract decision since the additional capacity will allow Robins to handle the work load for the future, said Hobbs.

Other depots are also being considered for facets of C-17 maintenance such as landing gear work.

Jerry Brady, contract administrator for the C-17 Project Office, said much hard work and effort from Robins team members made the project a success.

Hobbs participated in the project from the beginning in the summer of 1997. Hobbs directed the technical aspects for the work along with the project planning.

Two members of the bid team office—James "Buddy" Fordham, a contracting

officer, and Emory Griffin, a price analyst, were also involved from the beginning. They put the proposal together and assisted in negotiating the terms and conditions. Alan Sampson and James Muncy provided additional technical assistance.

"If it wasn't for (this team), there would have been no document for me to sign," Brady said. "Signing was easy, getting it to that point was the hard part."



Staff Sgt. Andrew Rodier

### Final farewell

Col. Donald Gallion, 437th Logistics Group commander, folds the 637th Aircraft Generation Squadron guidon one final time during the 637 AGS deactivation ceremony Oct. 1, as Master Sgt. Ronnie Davis, 637 AGS first sergeant and Maj. Dennis Daley, 637 AGS commander, look on. The 637 AGS merged with the 437 AGS to form one squadron.

(For more on the merger see the Oct. 1 edition of the *Airlift Dispatch*)

## Undersecretary of the Air Force visits Charleston

by Tech. Sgt. Daniel Murphy  
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston AFB was visited by the new Undersecretary of the Air Force, Carol A. DiBattiste, on Thursday and Friday. While here, she was briefed on the 437th and the 315th AW missions and the capabilities of the C-17. She was then taken up in a C-17 and shown a heavy equipment drop, assault landing and the aircraft performing backing and a star turn.

While seeing all these things, Ms. DiBattiste was most impressed by the people. "I am very impressed by the people and the dedication to the mission," said DiBattiste. "The amount of people who have deployed in support of Operation Allied Force and our mobility efforts around the world."

These efforts have come about as the result of Team Charleston working together as one.

"It is extremely impressive to see the active duty and Reserve see **Visit**, page 2